

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07  
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15  
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 CEQ-01  
EPA-04 IO-13 NSF-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 /135 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2999  
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 02211

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: ELTN, ENRG, PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: STATEMENTS BY GOC LEADERS RE NATIVE CLAIMS

REF: OTTAWA 2200

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT STATEMENTS  
BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REGARDING NATIVE CLAIMS  
QUESTIONS AND PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION. THEY MAY BE USED AS  
INDICATED IN TESTIMONY BEFORE US CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 24, 1977 PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU REPORTED  
IN HOUSE OF COMMONS ON HIS VISIT TO U.S. IN REPLY TO A  
QUESTION ON CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINES THROUGH CANADA, HE  
MENTIONED THAT HE HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT "THAT WE WOULD  
COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY WE CAN WITH THE AMERICANS...THAT  
WE WOULD, IN SO FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE AND FEASIBLE, NOT  
STAND IN THE WAY OF THEIR BRINGING THEIR GAS TO THEIR  
PEOPLE IN THE WAY WHICH WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO THEM,  
PROVIDED CERTAIN SUBJECTS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO  
CANADIANS COULD BE DEALT WITH SATISFACTORILY. I MEN-  
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TIONED IN PARTICULAR THE SUBJECTS OF INDIAN CLAIMS, PRO-  
TECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF  
A VAST INJECTION OF CAPITAL, AND OTHER SUCH MATTERS."

3. ON MARCH 18 IN HOUSE OF COMMONS THE PRIME MINISTER  
WAS ASKED "DOES THE GOVERNMENT INTEND TO PROCEED WITH THE  
MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION IF RECOMMENDED BY

THE NEB, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER OR NOT THE LAND CLAIMS HAVE BEEN SETTLED?" THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED "THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION HAS BEEN THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO MAKE A DECISION ON THIS MATTER EITHER AS BETWEEN ONE PIPELINE OR THE OTHER OR NO PIPELINE UNTIL WE HAVE THE REPORT FROM NEB AND THE BERGER COMMISSION...I HOPE THAT THE LAND CLAIMS, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE DECISION, WILL HAVE BEEN SETTLED, BUT THE UNDERTAKING IS NOT TO MAKE A DECISION UNTIL THE REPORTS ARE MADE."

4. IN A DECEMBER 17, 1976 LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF CURRENT CANADIAN AFFAIRS, INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS MINISTER WARREN ALLMAND EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF INDIAN CLAIMS. IN THAT LETTER HE SAID "AS YOU KNOW, NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ABOUT THE PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE. I WOULD PREFER THAT THE LAND CLAIMS BE SETTLED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON A PIPELINE, IF INDEED, IT IS DECIDED TO BUILD ONE, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROMISE THAT THIS WORK WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED."

5. MINISTER ALLMAND'S PREDECESSOR, THE HONORABLE JUDD BUCHANAN IN A MUCH EARLIER LETTER TO A PRIVATE CITIZEN, SAID IN REFERENCE TO THE BERGER REPORT "I ATTACH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO HIS REPORT. I WOULD PREFER THAT LAND CLAIMS BE SETTLED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON A PIPELINE IF, INDEED, IT IS DECIDED TO BUILD ONE IN THE  
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MACKENZIE VALLEY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROMISE THAT THIS WORK WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED..."

6. IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST FEBRUARY 4, 1977 WITH MINISTER ALISTAIR GILLESPIE, THE SUBJECT OF A PIPELINE WAS A KEY TOPIC. WHEN ASKED IF IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR CANADA TO SAY "NO" TO A PIPELINE, GILLESPIE RESPONDED "...I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF ASSUMPTIONS PERHAPS IN THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE AS TO ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF CANADIAN GAS THAT MIGHT FLOW SOUTH TO THE BENEFIT OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE ALSO SEEMS TO BE AN ASSUMPTION BY JUDGE LITT THAT THERE ISN'T ANY PROBLEM WITH RESPECT TO NATIVE CLAIMS OR NATIVE RIGHTS. NOW YOU KNOW THAT'S SURELY A MAJOR FROM A CANADIAN POINT OF VIEW, A MAJOR WEAKNESS..." INTERVIEWER (JEFF CARRUTHERS) ASKED "SHOULD NATIVE LAND CLAIMS BE SETTLED BEFORE A PIPELINE IS BUILT?" GILLESPIE REPLIED "I THINK IT IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE TO

SETTLE THOSE LAND CLAIMS JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT I FOR ONE, WOULD NOT WANT TO BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF BEING BLACKMAILED BY THOSE WHO ARE ADVANCING THE NATIVE CLAIMS ON THE BASIS THAT...NO AGREEMENT, NO PIPELINE... THIS COULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF CANADIANS."

7. BEGIN FYI: FINALLY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IN A LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE, LTD ALSO REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM OF NATIVE CLAIMS. IN THE LETTER HE STATES "...THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WISHES TO HAVE ALL ISSUES WHICH BEAR ON THE NATIONAL INTEREST CAREFULLY EXAMINED BEFORE AN ULTIMATE DECISION IS TAKEN.

8. "CLEARLY NATIVE CONCERNS AND THE ISSUE OF LAND CLAIMS,

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WHICH ARE A COMPONENT OF THAT CONCERN, ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THAT ULTIMATE EQUATION OF NATIONAL INTEREST. THE GOVERNMENT HAS STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ITS PREFERENCES FOR COMING TO A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THESE ISSUES EITHER BEFORE OR AS A PART OF A PIPELINE DECISION. THAT PREFERENCE CONTINUES TO BE GOVERNMENT POLICY. THE REPORTS OF THE BERGER COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD WILL PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE INFORMATION IT REQUIRES TO DETERMINE WHETHER A LARGER NATIONAL INTEREST COULD DEMAND A PIPELINE DECISION PRIOR TO A RESOLUTION OF NATIVE ISSUES. UNTIL THESE

REPORTS ARE BEFORE US, THE QUESTION OF A PRIOR DECISION FOR OR AGAINST THE PIPELINE REMAINS HYPOTHETICAL." THIS LETTER IS NOT IN PUBLIC DOMAIN. GOC WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ITS USE, BUT WOULD NOT WISH IT TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT APPROVAL OF CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE, LTD. SHOULD DEPARTMENT WISH TO OBTAIN SUCH APPROVAL, IT SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH COMPANY'S CHAIRMAN MR. W. P. WILDER IN TORONTO. END FYI. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ELTN, ENRG, PINT, CA, US  
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